

SERVICE PROVIDER SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a method and system for providing storage
5 service functions to customer's based on the number of users and/or capacity of storage
use for each service function. In an exemplary embodiment the storage system has a
licensing system that has a predetermined maximum number of users and/or storage
capacities for each service function provided. Each storage device in this embodiment has
a licensing function that keeps track of users and capacity for each storage function for
10 that device. The charge to the service provider by the vender is dependant upon the
values chosen for the maximum number of users and/or total capacity used by each
service function.

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